



## VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

243 MAIN STREET, JOHNSON CITY, NY 13790

[www.villageofjc.com](http://www.villageofjc.com)

### Village Board

Gregory Deemie, Mayor

Deputy Mayor Clark Giblin     Trustee Martin Meaney

Trustee Benjamin Reynolds     Trustee John Walker

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### **Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Johnson City Village Board held on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 in the Municipal Building, 243 Main Street, Johnson City**

Present:            Gregory Deemie, Mayor  
                        Clark Giblin, Deputy Mayor  
                        Martin Meaney, Trustee  
                        Benjamin Reynolds, Trustee  
                        John Walker, Trustee

Absent:             None

Also Present:     Cheryl Sacco, Legal Counsel  
                        Cindy Kennerup, Clerk/Treasurer

Mayor Deemie called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, led the Pledge of Allegiance and noted the fire exits.

Mayor Deemie recognized the life of Ron Heebner, Village of Johnson City resident, County legislature, top signature getter disliked being called honorable, so he always called him honorable. He was a good friend.

Former County Legislature summed it up that Ron was the hardest working politician that he's ever met. He worked his butt off, did a great job and was a service to our community.

Mayor Deemie sends our thoughts to Patty and Heebner family during this difficult time.

### **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- [1]     A Special Meeting of the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board will be held Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 4:00pm at the Administration Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, JSTP
- [2]     The Town of Union Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 7:00pm at 3111 E. Main Street, Endwell, NY 13760
- [3]     The Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting will be held on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 7:30pm.
- [4]     The next Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board Meeting is Tuesday, February 12,

- 2019 at 3:30pm at the Administration Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, JSTP, Vestal.
- [5] Susquehanna Heritage Area Meeting, Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 2:00pm at the Endicott Visitor Center Community Meeting Room.
- [6] The next regular Village Board Meeting will be Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 7:30pm with a work session at 5:30pm.

**BIDS** – None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None

**PETITIONS RECEIVED** – None

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – VISITORS**

Mayor Deemie opened the first privilege of the floor.

*Julie Deemie, Zoa Ave* – Not only was Ron Heebner a magnificent politician, he was a great community person and did a lot for the community. He was always there to lend a hand to the JC Partners and their endeavors. He and his wife worked and helped clean up Main Street in Johnson City in the cold. He recognized the quality of hard work.

Trustee Walker added that Ron and Patty maintained the circle for many years.

*Don Slota, Eldredge Ave* – Ron's name will still be here around the circle and hopefully Patty will have the strength to continue the hard work taking care of the circle. You always knew when he was running for something.

*Corrina Johnson, Cook St.* – Ron was a good friend of hers. He was fabulous, he had great value. He will be missed. Still has his phone number on a sticky note by her computer and he told her to call him whenever she needed. Ms. Johnson thanked Ron and remembered him for his great work.

*Don Slota, Eldredge Ave* – When you get to Resolution #2019-10, please enlighten us on what this entails.

*Karen Beebe* – What is the Village doing to try and mitigate the inevitable closing of the Oakdale Mall and the taxes that are going to fall on Johnson City because of that? What will happen to the \$2.8 million in taxes? Any emergency plans in the works? There are a lot of older population on fixed incomes and they would not like to see people being forced out of their homes.

- Mayor Deemie responded there is nothing we can do. It is a private entity. We have reached out to the owners, he has met with many elected officials and had multiple meetings regarding it. The reassessment is in litigation and we cannot speak about that. Being that is privately owned, unless they reach out to us, there is nothing we can do. Even Bill Levine reached out to them and he has been there 44 years. It is school, town and Village taxes. If a property doesn't pay their taxes for three years, the County takes it over as a foreclosure. At this point unless the county isn't going to pay the \$860,000, then we have a concern. At this time we are planning on the process working as it is supposed to. Otherwise it would be about a 10% increase in property taxes. We do not want to see that either. We are hoping someone will come in and purchase it. We have had multiple people ask for tax reductions and we have had

to pay money out. Sears, Macy's, JC Penney all own their building. It is also the sales tax that impacts the whole county.

- Trustee Walker stated it is much bigger than Johnson City. It is malls across the country.
- Trustee Meaney stated we should take a step in the proactive direction and get the county involved and put a Plan B together so if this does default, we have to market it.
  - Mayor Deemie responded, the County is involved in the meetings. They have not come up with anything. Joe Moody is our economic development, our contact in the Town of Union.
- Don Slota, Eldredge Ave questioned if it is zoned retail or is there some flexibility.
  - Mayor Deemie says it is zoned fully retail there, but is not positive. There are many stores closing all over.

*Julie Deemie, Zoa Ave* – Resolution #2019-29, clarification the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting is not a speaker series, it is volunteer appreciation night.

Mayor Deemie closed the first privilege of the floor.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – None

### **COMMITTEE/BOARD REPORTS**

A motion to accept and file the following Committee/Board Reports was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Giblin. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

- [1] Minutes of the January 2, 2019 Town of Union Board Meeting
- [2] Minutes of the January 2, 2019 Town of Union Reorganizational Meeting

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

A motion to accept and file the following Department Reports was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Giblin. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

- [1] Fire Department Overtime Report for the weeks of January 10 – January 23, 2019
- [2] Police Department Overtime Report for the weeks of January 10 – January 23, 2019
- [3] Town Of Union Code Enforcement November and December 2018 Monthly Reports
- [4] DPW & Water Monthly Report for January 2019
- [5] Police Department Monthly Report for November, 2018
- [6] Police Department Monthly Report for December, 2018

### **PAYROLL AND BILLS PRESENTED**

A motion to approve Abstract #13 of the 2018 – 2019 fiscal bills, having been audited by the Board and approved, was made by Trustee Giblin and seconded by Trustee Walker. The motion

carried with Trustees Reynolds, Giblin and Walker and Mayor Deemie voting in the affirmative.

GENERAL FUND	\$ 492,020.44
WATER FUND	\$ 75,950.43
SEWER FUND	\$ 13,867.24
REFUSE FUND	\$ 30,966.75
JSTP	\$ 1,205,032.01
DEBT SERVICE	\$ 48,780.00

Motion Carried – Vote:

**Ayes** – 4 (Reynolds, Giblin, Walker, Deemie)      **Nays** – 1 (Meaney)      **Absent** – 0

*Discussion:* Trustee Meaney questioned 13 bills for the following: development firm for the sewage treatment plant, a couple NYSEG bills being paid late, water department bill, mobile data for police dept., parking meter expense, former employee name removed from credit card, cost of smoke/CO detector for fire dept basement, name plates for Trustees, NYSEG bill, cost of traffic control signals for police dept, buying 6 golf shirts printed with maintenance staff, buying new tools for signs. Payment to BC Association for Towns & Villages for \$22, \$40 to Magistrates Association and \$100 for Membership for Court Clerks be pulled.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Resolution #2018 – 212**

A motion to authorize forgiveness of \$1,374.58 for water/refuse/sewer bill due to excessive charges to Sara Ostrander at 7 Schulte Avenue, Johnson City was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Giblin.

Motion Failed – Vote:

**Ayes** – 0      **Nays** – 5 (Reynolds, Meaney, Giblin, Walker, Deemie)      **Absent** – 0

*Discussion:* Trustee Walker stated these individuals came to the Board in November with a problem they had with their water bill. The Village tested the water meter and the meter tested 98% correct. Mayor confirms they tested at three different flows high, intermediate, and low. The result was that the resident used the water.

#### **Resolution #2019 - 10**

A motion to table the following resolution was made by Trustee Giblin and seconded by Trustee Reynolds.

Ratify the Village’s Procurement Policy for 2019 as it is currently written.

Motion Carried – Vote:

**Ayes** – 4 (Reynolds, Meaney, Giblin, Walker)      **Nays** – 1 (Deemie)      **Absent** – 0

*Discussion:* Mayor Deemie explains Trustee Walker requested we change one of the numbers on there, right now if it is over \$34,500 we are supposed to go out to formal bid, he wants it changed to over \$20,000. We are discussing what costs will be incurred, kind of extra paperwork. The Public Works Committee is going to get more information and get back to us.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FINANCE & RULES (All Board Members)**

**Resolution #2019 – 24**

A motion to appoint Erin Bilek to the Position of Part-Time Clerk in Village Hall, effective February 7, 2019, at a salary of \$11.10 per hour, contingent upon the completion of a successful background check was made by Trustee Giblin and seconded by Trustee Meaney.

Motion Carried – Vote:

**Ayes – 5** (Reynolds, Meaney, Giblin, Walker, Deemie)      **Nays – 0**      **Absent – 0**

**Resolution #2019 – 25**

A motion to authorize seventy five percent forgiveness or forgiveness of reasonable amount on a water/refuse/sewer bill in the amount of \$1,934.84 due to a water leak at the property of John and Sarah Cadore at 15 Ozalid Road, Johnson City was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Giblin.

Motion Failed – Vote:

**Ayes – 0**      **Nays – 5** (Reynolds, Meaney, Giblin, Walker, Deemie)      **Absent – 0**

**Resolution #2019 – 26**

A motion to approve the following resolution was made by Trustee Giblin and seconded by Trustee Meaney.

Motion Carried – Vote:

**Ayes – 5** (Reynolds, Meaney, Giblin, Walker, Deemie)      **Nays – 0**      **Absent – 0**

WHEREAS, a local law, being proposed as Local Law No. 2 of 2019, entitled “A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 264 OF THE VILLAGE CODE ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC”” a copy of which is attached hereto, was introduced at this meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Village Board desires to hold a public hearing with respect to the adoption of said Local Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a public hearing will be held by the Village Board of the Village of Johnson City with respect to the adoption of the aforesaid Local Law at 7:35 p.m. on February 19, 2019, at the Village Hall, 243 Main Street, Johnson City, New York, and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause public notice of said hearing to be given as provided by law.

**Resolution #2019 – 27**

A motion to authorize the Village Board to establish the following Exhibit A as the Standard workday for the Elected and appointed Officials and all Village personnel for the purpose of determining days worked reportable to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System. See the Standard work resolution as attached was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Walker.

Motion Carried – Vote:

**Ayes** – 5 (Reynolds, Meaney, Giblin, Walker, Deemie)      **Nays** – 0      **Absent** – 0

**Resolution #2019 – 28**

A motion to approve the following resolution was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Giblin.

Motion Carried – Vote:

**Ayes** – 5 (Reynolds, Meaney, Giblin, Walker, Deemie)      **Nays** – 0      **Absent** – 0

Be it resolved that the Village of Johnson City Location code 40020, hereby establishes the following as the Standard work days for its elected and appointed officials and will report days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the time keeping system or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the clerk of this body. See the attached Standard work days and titles.

**Resolution #2019 – 29**

A motion to approve a request from Johnson City Partners for use of the Village Training Room on February 21, March 21 and April 11, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for their presentation: Health & Cultural District Speaker Series, contingent upon the Village receiving proof of the required liability insurance, naming the Village as additional insured was made by Trustee Giblin and seconded by Trustee Reynolds.

Motion Carried – Vote:

**Ayes** – 5 (Reynolds, Meaney, Giblin, Walker, Deemie)      **Nays** – 0      **Absent** – 0

### **Resolution #2019 - 30**

A motion to authorize Mayor to sign Change Order #1 for the pagoda rehabilitation project in the amount of \$8,204.00 for the replacement of Douglas Fir Roof decking on the upper and lower roofs due to the unforeseen rotted existing roof decking was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Giblin.

Motion Carried – Vote:

**Ayes** – 5 (Reynolds, Meaney, Giblin, Walker, Deemie)      **Nays** – 0      **Absent** – 0

### **Resolution #2019 - 31**

A motion to appoint a part time Zombie Properties Clerk and a Part-Time Main Street Program Clerk effective the 7<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019 contingent upon the successful completion of a background check with the salary being paid through their respective Grants; authorize the Mayor to choose the top candidate based upon advice of Grant writer, Dai Korba was held over by Trustee Meaney.

### **Resolution #2019 - 32**

A motion to authorize partial forgiveness of water/refuse/sewer bill in the amount of \$1,957.31 due to extenuating circumstances at the property of Eugenia Muryn at 9 Colville Avenue, Johnson City was held over by Trustee Walker.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

**FIRE (Trustees Balles & Walker)** - No new business

**POLICE (Trustees Balles & Walker)**

### **Resolution #2019 – 33**

A motion to appoint Brendan Palmatier to the position of Police Officer as a lateral transfer from the Norwich Police Department effective February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, at a starting salary determined by step 3 of the collective bargaining agreement, contingent upon final approval from Broome County Civil Service was made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Giblin.

Motion Carried – Vote:

**Ayes** – 5 (Reynolds, Meaney, Giblin, Walker, Deemie)      **Nays** – 0      **Absent** – 0

### **PUBLIC WORKS (Trustees Balles & King)**

### **Resolution #2019 – 34**

A motion to appoint Christopher V. Watkins to the position of DPW Probationary Laborer at a salary of \$17.10 per hour effective February 8, 2019 contingent upon the successful completion of a background investigation and the required pre-employment drug test was made by

Trustee Giblin and seconded by Trustee Meaney.

Motion Carried – Vote:

**Ayes – 5** (Reynolds, Meaney, Giblin, Walker, Deemie)    **Nays – 0**    **Absent – 0**

**RECREATION (Trustees Balles & King)** - No new business

**PLANNING, ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT (Trustees Balles & Walker)** - No new business

**JOINT SEWAGE TREATMENT BOARD ((Trustees Giblin & King)** - No new business

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – VISITORS**

Mayor Deemie opened the second privilege of the floor.

*Bruce King*    Trustee Reynolds can you clarify, prove or apologize for your post on Facebook. Since Trustee Reynolds didn't reach out, there was no meeting and he did not get a message to Mr. King, he would like to know if he's contacted any law enforcement agency, District Attorney or Attorney General about his concerns about conflicts or corruption.

- Trustee Reynolds asks to see the paperwork.
- Bruce King and Trustee Reynolds discuss campaign issues
- Bruce King says perception is that Trustee Reynolds said there is conflicts of interest and corruption in Village Hall.
- Trustee Reynolds apologizes if anyone feels he was making a personal attack.
- He would be someone that if he would observe conflicts or corruption he would speak out.

Mayor Deemie closed the second privilege of the floor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #2**

A motion to enter executive session at 8:04 pm to discuss personnel issues was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Walker. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

A motion to exit the executive session at 8:34 pm was made by Trustee Meaney and seconded by Trustee Walker. The motion carried with all those present voting in the affirmative.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

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Cindy Kennerup  
Village Clerk/Treasurer

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Recordings of the Village Board meetings and work sessions  
are available for review through the Village Clerk/Treasurer's Office.